HOME GOING CELEBRATION FOR

Samella Thomas

SUNRISE
SEPTEMBER 5, 1910

SUNSET
MAY 28, 2010

SERVICES HELD ON
FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010
11:00 AM

NORTH RICHMOND
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1427 FILBERT STREET
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

OFFICIATING
REV. JAMES HARRIS

She is a tree of life to them who lay upon her: and happy is everyone who retains her.
—Proverbs 3:18

Samella Thomas

SEPTEMBER 5, 1910 – MAY 28, 2010

WRITTEN BY SAMELLA IN 1995

I, Samella Caldwell (the 12th child), was born on September 5, 1910 to the proud parents of Aaron Caldwell and Adline Brooks in Montrose, Arkansas. I moved to Watson, Arkansas, then to Dumas, Arkansas. I was born in the spirit of God and baptized in Belco Lake. I joined St. James AME Methodist Church where I served as a member until 1922. I moved to Gould, Arkansas in 1922 and joined the AME Church under the leadership of Rev. J.A. Brooks (my mother's brother). I served in Sunday School, the Choir, and Prayer Band. I then moved to Reedville, Arkansas and joined St. John Baptist Church under Pastor J.R. Rogers. There I served in the Prayer Band and sang in the choir. I became the mother of two children and moved to Dumas, Arkansas. I met Julious Thomas and married on December 3, 1933. I joined Moses Temple Baptist Church where I sang in the choir. I became Mother of the church. Julious Thomas confessed Christ and was baptized and joined Moses Temple Baptist Church under the Pastor R. Green. Julious became a Deacon of the church in 1938; we lived in McGhee, Arkansas. In 1942, Julious left McGhee, Arkansas and came to Richmond, California to work at the Kaiser Ship Yard as a ship-filler. I moved to Watson, Arkansas and my children and I worked on the family farm with my brother, Harrison Thornton. Julious came back and I agreed to move to Richmond, California in 1944. I joined North Richmond Baptist Church under Pastor Rev. J.W. Watkins. I served in the church as a member. After the death of Rev. Watkins, Rev. C. W. Newson became the Pastor. I was the Vice President of the Pastor's Aid and the Vice President of the Mary's Circle of the Mission Board under President Sister G.M. Payne and Vice President sister Virgie Watkins. In January 1947, I returned to Dumas, Arkansas and stayed until October of 1948. I returned to Richmond, California in October of 1948 and sold the home at 1341 Filbert Street and moved to Hanford, California. At this time, I was also raising 10 children.

In 1949, my husband and I separated in Hanford, California. I moved to 47 Duboce Street in Richmond, California with 8 children. I sent my children to school and I prayed to the Lord to help me with them. I had a hard time, but I kept them in school. My next-door neighbor, Mary Smith, and me were close friends and we shared with each other. I caught the truck from North Richmond to Dos Palos, California to pick cotton, beans, and grapes to help feed my children. The Lord opened the way for me and I sold Watkins and Fullers cosmetic products. I prayed night and day for my children to stay in school and graduate. With the grace of God, all the children graduated and got jobs. Some of them worked at Fairchild in San Rafael and some at Convalescent hospitals.

In my family, I have nurses, Computer Operators, Bank Supervisors, Accountants, Post Office Supervisors and Construction Workers who help build the Hilltop Mall, Cement Contractors, Mechanics, and Designers. I have a granddaughter that graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a B.S. Degree. All of my children have jobs now and are buying houses and cars.

I prayed and asked the Lord, when they all get grown not to let them forsake their families to take care of me. The Lord blessed them, so they did not have to take care of me. Just put your trust in the Lord and he will make a way for you.

My husband died on June 1, 1977 and I became a widow. I began receiving income from Social Security and the Lord blessed me and my children. I just sat back and thanked God. My children love me and I love them. I receive Mother's Day and Birthday gifts and dinners every year. God has blessed them and me. I have 9 children living and 3 deceased. I have always been independent and able to do for myself. I have been both mother and father to my children. When I go home, let the work I have done speak for me. When you come to my home going, don't worry about me.

Samella leaves to cherish her memories; Bonnie Ward Thomas (Theresa), Julius Thomas (Juanita), Irene Irving, Jellean Evans, Jesse Thomas (Brenda), Isadoria Thomas, Chester Thomas (Lori), Mary Thomas (Eddie), and Quincy Bell. Four children preceded her in death, Lovie Stanley, Chessie Bishop, Roosevelt Thomas, and Samuel Thomas. Thirty-four (34) grandchildren, Fifty-nine (59) great grandchildren, Forty-eight (48) great-great grandchildren, seven (7) great-great-great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Order of Celebration Service

Samella Caldwell Thomas

Friday, June 4, 2010
11:00am

Rev. James Harris, Officiating

Processional.....Entrance of Family

Prayer.....Rev. James Harris
North Richmond Baptist Church

Old Testament (23 Psalms).....Rev. Sanchez
All Nations Church of Christ Holiness

New Testament.....Pastor Davis
Bayo Vista Baptist Church

Selection

Tribute To Grandma.....Linda Youngblood/Tamarra Clay

Acknowledgement of Cards and Resolutions.....Jaqueline Langford
Laura Hall

Selection

Reading of the Obituary.....Jill Gilbert

Reflections.....Please hold your remarks to 1 minute

Selection

Eulogy.....Pastor Farr

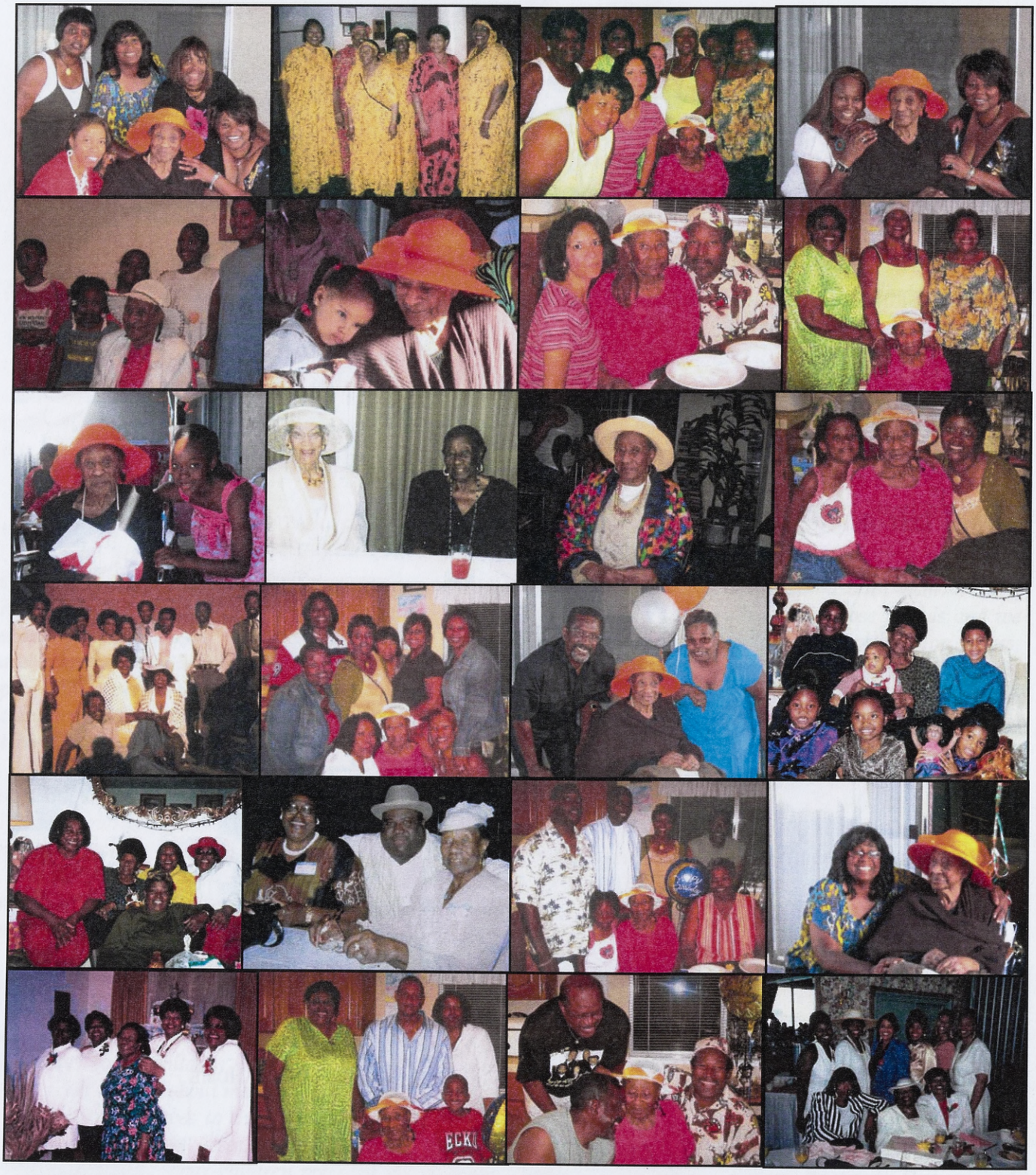
Viewing.....Fuller Funeral Home

Repast

Immediately following service
North Richmond Baptist Church
Richmond, CAlifornia

Order of Celebration

Treasured Memories



Treasured Memories

Treasured Memories

A MOTHERS LOVE

By Linda Youngblood

A Mother's love is something that you cannot explain. A mothers Love is someone who is there for you through trials and tribulations.

Even though you may not agree with everything she had to say, but in the end, you always knew she would be right on time.

A Mothers Love is in-describable, she is there in times of sickness, sadness, loneliness, or just there to lend a helping hand. As in the case of "PIE Thomas", no matter what the occasion you could depend on her to be there. Her children, no matter how old they were, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren depended upon her too! As she would Always say "I raised mine, helped with my grand's and great-grand's" and that she did.

We can all remember the days when she would Pop Popcorn, melt that butter, and put sugar and salt on it, turn on the TV to watch the Young and the Restless, or better yet, a Friday night Roller Derby or Wrestling match.

Grandmamma dear as known in the community loved everyone, it didn't matter which one of her children or grandchildren you were friends with, you became her child too.

As time passed on, Grandmamma Dear knew that her work had paid off, she was now able to reap the benefits of being such a wonderful Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. At times, she would call you up to chit chat, then her famous words "You got a little change" would come up in the conversation, and your immediate response, would be, I'm on my way, just to get there to see a line of other family members coming out the door.

With "That Little Change"

BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE!

By Tama Poo

Because you were there my life has been blessed. You were there when I was sick, couldn't take care of myself and needed someone to care for me. You were there to wipe my tears to keep me from crying a river. You were there to hug me when you knew it was just what I needed. You were there to hold my hand to keep me from falling. You were there to protect me because you felt I would always be safe right by your side. You were there to teach me how to pray when I didn't realize that prayer was the key to life. You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. You supported me in everything I did to assure me that life has no limits to what I can do. You were there to love me when I was discovering love, what it truly means and how to love myself. Because you were there I received those gifts from God with you as his messenger to mold my character and strengthen my spirit. Thank you for giving those gifts so freely! Because you were there I will walk in your image of inner beauty. Because you were there my heart is pure & kind. Because you were there I know the true meaning of unconditional love. Because you were there my life will never remain the same. I will hold on to you and all the gifts you've given me in my heart forever. I love you with all my heart and from my soul all because you were there! You were heaven sent and a gift from God given to us "on purpose" for 99 years. I thank God and thank you Grandmamma Dear for my life and being the rock for so many of us. Now it's time for your spirit to be at peace. God has heard your cry and has been waiting for his angel to return home. He missed you just as much as we will. You have a wonderful legacy you've created that will live on, Love on, and love you forever because you were there.

Active Pallbearers

Frederick Ward
Donald Bishop
Gregory Thomas
Roosevelt Thomas
Derick Thomas
Melvin Thomas

Honorary Pallbearers

Bonnie Lee Ward
Julius Thomas
Jesse Thomas
Fredrick Hagen
J. Anthony Thomas
Chester Lee Thomas Jr.
Carl D. Bishop
Mark Chandler
Dave Willis
Chester Lee Thomas
Quincy Bell
Edward Hurd
Ronald Rhimes
Darryl Bishop
Anthony Fortune
Kenny Daniel
Keith Thomas
Rodrick Thomas

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The entire Thomas family would like to thank each and every one of you for attending the service of our beloved Mother. Your cards, telephone calls, prayers, flowers, and visits are well appreciated. Special thanks to the musicians, Edward Hurd Jr. and Hassan Hurd.

Legacy of Love

A wife, a mother, a grandmother too, this is the legacy we have from you.
You taught us love and how to fight, you gave us strength, you gave us might.
A strong person would be hard to find, and in your heart, you were always kind.
You fought for us all in one way or another, not just as a wife not just as a mother.
For all of us you gave your best, now the time has come for you to rest.
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep, your love in our hearts, we'll eternally
Keep those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved,
still missed and very dear

Interment

Rolling Hills Memorial Gardens
4100 Hilltop Drive – Richmond, California

Arrangements Entrusted To The Care Of:

Fuller Funerals, Inc.
3100 Cutting Blvd. ▪ Richmond, CA ▪ Tel: (510) 237-5473
Programs Created By ▪ Evergreen Printing Inc. ▪ Tel: (707) 642-3350